



Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office of Special Education (OSE)

## OSE Update

**April 2026**

### **What's New?**

#### **Alt+Shift**

---

- Alt+Shift has moved! As of April 1, 2026, our new address is 5815 Clark Rd., Suite G, Bath, MI 48808. Please return library items to the new location.
- The Alt+Shift Summer Retreat is scheduled for June 16-17, 2026.
  - Implementation efforts in complex “dancing landscapes” can be exciting and full of promise. They can also lose traction when confronted with interconnected and dynamic challenges deeply rooted in the system. This puts outcomes in jeopardy and can reinforce systems that produce unsatisfactory or undesirable results. Alt+Shift invites intermediate school district (ISD) and district implementation teams to Traverse City for two days of teamwork that confronts complex challenges, protects desired outcomes, and identifies potential steps to dance with the complexity.
  - **Audience:** ISD and district implementation teams, inclusive of an executive decision maker working on dynamic systemic barriers to implementation goals

#### **Data Collection**

---

- The federal regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) require annual public reporting on the performance of each local education agency on the targets established in the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR). For a two-week period beginning approximately May 6, 2026, member districts, public school academies and intermediate school districts will be able to preview data.
- [SPP/APR Data](#) will be publicly available by June 1, 2026

#### **Medicaid School Services Program (SSP)**

---

Since 1993, Michigan Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) have participated in a federal and state-funded Medicaid reimbursement program.



### **Regional Medicaid SSP Meetings**

- [Regional SPP meetings](#) are held in the fall and spring conference. Fall 2025 completed.

### **Public Consulting Group (PCG)**

- For more information on the SPL, Quarterly Reports and/or the RMTS process, send emails to [miaop@pcgus.com](mailto:miaop@pcgus.com).

### **Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS)**

- For more information about [CHAMPS](#) or Medicaid reimbursement, contact Amy Kanter at [KanterA@michigan.gov](mailto:KanterA@michigan.gov).

### **Behavioral Health State School Aid**

- [31n School-Based Mental Health Services: 2024-2025 Legislative Report](#)

### **Resources**

- National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, Inc
- [Become a NAME member](#)

### **Google Drive**

Access to the drive is provided to ISD Coordinators who support their county's Medicaid SSP and/or provide oversight and training to local entities. The Google Drive includes shared resources currently used and updated by partners to support quality assurance and compliance with Medicaid policy.

Please note that documents in Dropbox and Google Drive may include historical or outdated information and do not supersede current Medicaid policy. These materials are not vetted by MDHHS or MDE.

For questions about the drive or to update/remove staff access, please contact Dana Billings at [BillingsD1@michigan.gov](mailto:BillingsD1@michigan.gov) to forward the request to the appropriate coordinator.

### **Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)**

---

- MAF staff support families through outreach and mentoring and by providing a wealth of printed and electronic information and resources throughout the year.
- MAF provides information through a wide variety of virtual learning opportunities with MAF staff and partner agencies; recorded videos; and courses that are free to families, educators, and caregivers. See our [upcoming events](#) on our website. View our previously recorded webinars on our [videos page](#).



- Our new regional parent mentor for Genesee County has completed orientation and is actively supporting families across the county.
- Our virtual learning opportunities remain strong, with excellent participation across topics:
  - Transition: 486 participants
  - Personal Curriculum: 230 participants
  - Section 504: What Parents Need to Know: 113 participants (50 parents, 63 professionals)
  - IEP: A Closer Look: 83 participants (44 parents, 38 professionals)
- This year, MAF is piloting Family Data Leaders, a new learning series made possible through a partnership with the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy) and the Center for Parent Information and Resources (CPIR). For more about this partnership, visit [Family Data Leaders Advance States' Efforts | DaSy Center](#)
- The [Leaders in Policy Advocacy Series](#) (LIPA) is a six-month leadership series for adults with developmental disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. LIPA received 71 applications and will begin April 10–11, 2026, in Mt. Pleasant.
- Michigan Alliance for Families continues its work with Project Launch. Led by the PACER Center, this initiative is a collaboration between eight Parent Centers across the Midwest. Project Launch helps youth and young adults with disabilities reach their postsecondary education, employment, and independent living goals through training and assistance for youth, families, and professionals. This work is made possible with a grant from the Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA) through 2030. MAF developed a new learning opportunity, College Planning with an IEP. It will be offered on May 5, 2026.
- MAF continues to work with the Opening the Pipeline of Talent into Michigan's Special Education (OPTIMISE) core planning team, taskforce, and action teams. The goal is to build, support, and sustain a new education system that can enthusiastically attract, prepare, and retain an effective and diverse special education workforce to serve individuals across Michigan. OPTIMISE also has a newsletter. Sign up at the [OPTIMISE's Constant Contact Page](#).
- Our newsletter is a great way to stay up to date with Michigan Alliance for Families events and special education news. We recently reached a milestone of 10,000 subscribers and are so pleased that our information and resources are reaching so many families and professionals across the state. [Sign-up for our e-newsletter](#) to receive special education information, find out about our upcoming events, and connect with Michigan resources.



## Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center (MiMTSS TAC)

---

- The TA Center is collaborating with Office of Special Education staff on free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) to determine MTSS literacy/Social, Emotional, Behavioral Health (SEBH) training, coaching, and consultative supports.
  - Work has started with districts and schools within Sanilac ISD and TA Center staff have met with Hillsdale ISD.

## Resource for Blind/Low Vision (RBLV) and Resource for Deaf/Hard of Hearing (RDHH)

---

- As part of our name change process, our new websites will launch in May! Save [rblv.org](http://rblv.org) and [rdhh.org](http://rdhh.org) to your bookmarks. We will send an announcement when the websites launch.
- **BLV:** In February, three students from Michigan came home with bronze medals in their respective age groups from Abacus Bee Nationals! Abacus Bee is an annual competition that showcases students' abacus and mental math skills. Out of 215 students who competed across the country, only 30 made it to nationals, and our students brought home 3 of the 15 medals awarded. We are so proud of our students!
- **DHH:** Michigan early intervention and school personnel working with children who are DHH, ages five and younger, are invited to take the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) at no cost. The ASLPI, offered by Gallaudet University, provides a clear evaluation of your overall ASL proficiency. This program runs through June 30, 2026. Interested individuals may complete the [Know to Grow: A Free ASLPI Opportunity Interest Form](#).
- **For BLV and DHH students:** We want student input! The RBLV and RDHH Student Advisory Board is a unique opportunity for students who are BLV or DHH and will be entering grades 9-12 in the 2026-27 school year. The board will offer an opportunity for students to share their perspectives, experiences, and feedback on programming that will affect students. Learn more: [Apply for Our Student Advisory Board by April 28](#)
- **BLV:** Please submit any requests for next school year's textbooks as soon as possible. When districts submit early requests, our staff has enough time to produce books and get them into students' hands at the start of the next school year.
- **BLV:** We are pleased to announce that discontinued items, including products, equipment, and books, are now available for Michigan families or school personnel to request through our library management system (LMS). Learn more: [Discontinued Items Now Available in the LMS](#)



## **Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS)**

---

- Contact Information: 517-334-0034 or [info@MiKids1st.org](mailto:info@MiKids1st.org).
- As of March 26, our state fiscal year numbers include 704 intakes (378 converted to cases), 105 mediations (77 percent agreement rate), and 452 facilitations.

## **Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) Project**

---

- [START Connecting articles](#), supporting educators and families of students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), are available on the START website. Currently, there are more than 6,000 subscribers. Anyone wishing to receive the updates can sign up on the [START website](#).
  - Recent articles:
    - [Autistic Flourishing and Wellbeing](#)
    - [Visual Supports in Practice: Supporting Learning and Navigating Transitions](#)
- Registration is open for the 25th Annual START Conference. The conference will be held on **May 4, 2026**, at the Lansing Center and will feature Shelley Moore, Ph.D., Elizabeth Biggs, Ph.D., and Mateo Moreno.



## Upcoming Learning Opportunities

### Alt+Shift

---

- “Behavior as Communication: Rethinking Our Role and Response” and “Math: Beyond 1...2...3...”
  - **April 20, 2026** (8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) – Freedom Acres School, Ionia, MI
  - Breakout sessions at [Michigan POHI/SXI Conference](#)
- [Alt+Shift Summer Retreat](#)
  - **June 16-17, 2026** (9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) – Hagerty Center, 715 E. Front Street, Traverse City, MI
  - [Room block information](#)

### Medicaid School Services Program (SSP)

---

#### Quarterly Medicaid SSP Implementer Meetings

Implementer meetings are presented quarterly for coordinators who support the Medicaid SSP. Implementer meetings for 2025-2026:

- June 9, 2026, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Ingham

For more information, please contact Dana Billings at [BillingsD1@michigan.gov](mailto:BillingsD1@michigan.gov).

#### Statewide Medicaid Training:

- Recording coming soon.

#### School Services Program Medicaid Conference

- [2026 Michigan Medicaid SPP Conference](#): Park Place, Traverse City  
April 14-15, 2026.

### Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

---

Families and professionals can access our [on-demand webinars](#) at any time. Find more details on all learning opportunities on our [event page](#).

- [Collaboration on Transition](#)
  - **April 16, 2026** (5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Behavior Is Communication \(Part 1\)](#)
  - **April 17, 2026** (1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Supporting Student Mental Health](#)
  - **April 22, 2026** (4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Transition: Employment Expectations](#)



- **April 23, 2026** (5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Behavior Is Communication \(Part 2\)](#)
  - **April 24, 2026** (1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Transition: Beyond IDEA](#)
  - **April 30, 2026** (5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Empowered Parent IEP Course](#)
  - **May 5, 2026** (three Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.)
  - Registration open from April 8-20 (or when full)
- [College Planning with an IEP](#)
  - **May 5, 2026** (5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Collaborative Communication in Special Education](#)
  - **May 7, 2026** (12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [IEP: A Closer Look](#)
  - **May 11, 2026** (6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Early Intervention and IFSPs: A Closer Look](#)
  - **May 13, 2026** (12:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Youth Self-Determination Course](#)
  - **May 14, 2026** (four Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.) – Virtual
  - Registration open from April 13-May 12 (or when full)
- [Tots and Transitions](#)
  - **May 20, 2026** (12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m.) – Virtual

## **Michigan’s MTSS Technical Assistance Center (MiMTSS TAC)**

---

Looking for professional opportunities? Check out the [MiMTSS TA professional learning calendar of events](#). Do you want to know about new technical assistance center events so you can register? Request to be added to the TA Center listserv to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events by signing up through the [listserv signup page](#).

- Save the Date! MTSS Conference
  - **November 19-20, 2026** – Lansing, MI

## **Resource for Blind/Low Vision (RBLV) and Resource for Deaf/Hard of Hearing (RDHH)**

---

- For more information on the events listed below, as well as other events offered by MDE RBLV and MDE RDHH, sign up for the [RBLV and RDHH email list](#) or visit [our event section](#).
- On May 2, RDHH is excited to host its first ever statewide art showcase, Masterpiece Reimagined! This showcase celebrates creativity, imagination,



and students' unique artistic expression. Students who are DHH are invited to choose an already established piece of art and recreate it in their own way. This event will be held at REACH Studio Art Center in Lansing with an optional art class after the exhibition.

- RDHH is offering several free online workshops covering Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) Michigan recommended assessments:
  - Confidently Administering the American Sign Language Receptive Skills Test (ASL-RST), May 15, 2026
  - Making Sense of MacArthur Bates Communicative Development Inventories (MB-CDIs), May 19, 2026
  - Communication Matrix Training, July 14 and August 18, 2026
- On May 15, RBLV will offer an in-person workshop all about outdoor orientation and mobility (O&M) assessments for students who are in preschool through postsecondary settings. Participants will explore O&M assessments, learn techniques for engaging students, and participate in discussions about methods for assessing street crossings, orientation, and additional outdoor travel skills.
- Share with families: Camp Tuhsmeheeta (Camp T) summer planning is in full swing! Registration is still open for the following events:
  - Camp T Little Explorers (BLV and DHH), May 9, 2026
  - DHH Summer Camp, June 12-14, 2026
  - Outdoor Adventure Camp (BLV), June 24-28, 2026
  - Fine Arts Camp (BLV), July 15-19, 2026
  - Camp T Alumni Picnic (BLV), August 29, 2026

## **Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS)**

---

SEMS customizes training for schools and family serving agencies. Reach out if you are interested in what we have to offer by calling 517-334-0034, or visit the [SEMS website](#).

SEMS collaborates with the Michigan Alliance for Families on numerous training events. See the [MAF upcoming training section](#) for more information.

- [Collaborative Communication in Special Education](#)
  - **May 7, 2026** (12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.) – Virtual



## **Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) Project**

---

Visit the [START Trainings webpage](#) for upcoming training and training series schedules.

- [25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary START Speaker Series](#)
  - **April 15, 2026** (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.) – Virtual
  - Featuring Guest Speaker Amy Ursitti
- [Increasing Academic Engagement](#)
  - Topic: Student Engagement: Planning Group and Partnership Activities to Optimize Shared Participation (K-12)
  - **April 24, 2026** (8:00 - 8:30 a.m. OR 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [25<sup>th</sup> Annual START Conference](#)
  - **May 4, 2026** (8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) – Lansing Center, Lansing, MI
- [Building Strong Foundations: An Introduction to the Pyramid Model for Preschool Educators](#)
  - **May 8, 2026** (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.) – Virtual
- [Devices, Apps, and Tools for Leading Your Transition to Life](#)
  - **May 12, 2026** (11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Peer to Peer Lunch & Learn](#)
  - **May 13, 2026** (11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) – Virtual